GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2294
ANSWERED ON:03.12.2007
UTILISATION OF SERVICES OF IAF PILOTS
Badiga Shri Ramakrishna

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of trained and fit pilots of Indian Air Force are sitting idle or doing some desk work due to non-availability of aircraft;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the expenditure incurred on their training;

(d) the plan to utilise their service; and

(e) the extent to which Russia's additional demand of money for each Sukhoi aircraft will hamper acquisition of aircraft?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

(a) to (d): There is no trained and fit pilot sitting idle in Indian Air Force. The trained IAF pilots who are on ground assignments are on authorized posts which need to be manned by flying branch officers in order to sustain combat potential of the IAF.

Flying training is a continuous process in the job profile of a pilot. The average cost of operational flying training varies from aircraft to aircraft. Besides, on all the fleets and systems, all personnel undergo operational conversion and continuity training. This is an ongoing activity.

(e) The supplies from Russia are based on mutually agreed pricing philosophy mechanism and will not affect acquisition of Sukhoi aircraft.